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Region 5

Hot Issues:

OAR to Brief Elected Officials on Next Steps for Sterigenics Willowbrook Facility

Key Message: OAR AA Wehrum will brief federal, state and local elected officials on Sept. 28 regarding progress and next steps for the Sterigenics Willowbrook Facility. Sterigenics conducted stack testing on Sept. 20 and 21 to determine the effectiveness of pollution controls at reducing ethylene oxide emissions. Sterigenics must submit testing reports within 60 days of completion of the testing. Staff from OAQPS and Illinois EPA observed the testing.

This spring, Region 5 monitoring detected elevated levels of ethylene oxide near the Sterigenics facility in the community. A report published by ATSDR shows an elevated cancer risk exists for residents and off-site workers, assuming chronic exposure. Region 5 is working with Illinois EPA and Sterigenics to reduce emissions of ethylene oxide from the company's facility. In July, the company installed additional pollution controls to capture ethylene oxide emissions. The Region continues to work cooperatively with the Illinois EPA, local officials and the company.

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